

# F.A.Q. Grocers / Retailers

## Hawaii Beverage Container Deposit Program



### Does this law require me to become a redemption center?

A grocer or retailer is required to be a redemption center if:

- They are located in a high-density population area on the island of Oahu; and
- No redemption centers exist within 2 miles of their store.

You can meet the requirement of having to become a redemption center by either providing redemption services on your own or by contracting with a recycler to run a redemption center for you.



Reverse Vending Machines can help the redemption process.

### What stores are not required to provide a redemption center?

Stores are not required to provide a redemption center if they:

- Have less than 5,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of retail space;
- Are located in a rural area (rural areas include Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui counties);
- Can prove hardship (Department of Health may waive the requirement); or
- Only sell deposit beverage containers via vending machines.

### Will this law increase my costs?

Distributors pay a 1¢ container fee and a 5¢ deposit to the Department of Health (DOH) for each deposit beverage container. This cost will be passed on to you. You will pass the cost of the 5¢ deposit on to the consumer. Passing on the cost of the 1¢ container fee will be up to you. If you pass on the cost of both the deposit and the container fee then there will be no increase in your costs. If you only pass on the cost of the deposit then you will have an additional cost of 1¢ per container.

### When do I begin charging consumers the deposit?

You can charge the deposit as early as November 1, 2004 for labeled deposit containers. The deposit shall only apply to containers labeled with the Hawaii deposit value. All deposit beverage containers must be labeled by January 1, 2005.

**What if I have unlabeled beverage containers on my store shelves  
January 1, 2005?**

Unlabeled deposit beverage containers shall not be sold after December 31, 2004. However, they can be sold if a deposit sticker is applied to the container. The DOH will sell deposit stickers from November 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004. If you have surplus stickers you may redeem them with the DOH by March 1, 2005.

**Can the deposit charge appear as a separate line item on the receipt?**

Yes. This way the customer can easily see how much they paid in deposit costs.

**How can this law benefit my business?**

Providing a redemption center or a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) on your property will give customers an added incentive to patronize your store. RVM's have the option to issue redemption amounts in the form of a voucher or cash. If an RVM dispenses a voucher the customer must enter the store to redeem the voucher with their next purchase. Vouchers can be printed with store coupons as an added incentive.

**For more information contact:**

Department of Health  
Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch  
Phone: (808) 586-4226  
Visit: [www.hawaii.gov/doh](http://www.hawaii.gov/doh)